

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the above-identified application. Support for new claims 6-13 is found at page 4 of the specification, as well as in the examples in Table 1-2 on pages 10 and 12 of the specification.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato'150 (US 2002/0065150 A1). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Present Invention and its Advantages

The present invention is directed to a golf ball which includes a rubber composition containing a rubber component primarily constituting hydrogenated polybutadiene with a double bond residual rate of up to 99%. If the double bond residual rate is too high, i.e. 100%, the coefficient of restitution and restitution feeling properties are disadvantageously affected. This is evidenced by the comparative test results described at pages 10-13 of the specification. Note that Table 1 on page 10 provides comparisons with regard to the double bond residual rate among various treated rubber component products, and as a comparison, an untreated rubber component product (i.e. "JSR BR01" having a double bond residual rate of 100%). Table 2 on page 12 of the specification shows that all Examples 1-4 (present invention) exhibit

advantageously improved coefficient of restitution and restitution feeling properties over Comparative Example 1 which employs a rubber component having an insufficiently hydrogenated polybutadiene rubber component. Consequently, the present specification provides objective evidence of unexpected, advantageous properties exhibited by the present invention.

Distinctions between Present Invention and Kato'150

Kato'150 discloses a two-piece solid golf ball which includes a core and a cover that may be formed from various types of rubber components. For example, Kato'150 discloses a number of rubber components that may be used to form the core at paragraph [0028] on page 2 thereof, including a high-cis polybutadiene rubber with a cis-1,4 bond of not less than 80%.

Kato'150 fails to disclose or suggest the employment of a hydrogenated polybutadiene having a double bond residual rate of at most 99% as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Kato'150 fails to recognize or address the advantageous properties achieved by the golf ball of the present invention with regard to advantageously improved coefficient of restitution properties and restitution feeling properties as evidenced by the comparative test results discussed above. Thus, significant patentable distinctions exist between the claims of the present application and Kato'150 such that the above-noted rejection should be withdrawn.

Application No.: 10/761,263

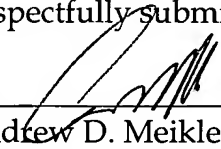
Docket No.: 0033-0917P

It is submitted that all of the presently pending claims define patentable subject matter such that the present application should be placed into condition for allowance.

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicants representative, Andrew D. Meikle , in the Washington Metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  _____

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Attachments